## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188306 ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 H-02 /022 R

DRAFTED BY CA/SCS/RLRIVERA/MRER APPROVED BY CA/SCS/LDAY CA/BMWTSON DESIRED DISTRIBUTION "H"

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P 261434Z JUL 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 188306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC(WATSON, INEZ)

SUBJECT: W/W INEZ WATSON

1. SENATOR STROM THURMOND INTERESTED.

2. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED BY SENATOR THURMOND CONCERNING ALLEGED LACK OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED SUBJECT WHEN HER BAGGAGE WAS LOST FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE DAYS WHILE SHE WAS VACATIONING IN SPAIN. IN A COMPLAINT TO THE SENATOR, MS. WATSON STATES THAT SHE WENT TO THE EMBASSY ON MAY 26 AND SPOKE WITH MRS. M.L. PETROWSKI WHO TELEPHONED THE STATIONS AND LEARNED WHAT SHE AND A FRIEND HAD BEEN TOLD REPEATEDLY FOR DAYS - NO BAGGAGE. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY AND SPOKE WITH MRS. RUSH WHO ADVISED HER TO GO TO THE ATOCHA STATION AS THE LUGGAGE WOULD BE THERE. AFTER SEVERAL TRIPS AND SOME TRANSLATING SERVICES RECEIVED FROM HER HOTEL, SHE MANAGED TO APPEAL TO THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAGGAGE DEPARTMENT FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE. ULTIMATELY THE BAGGAGE WAS LOCATED AT THE PORTUGUESE/SPANISH BORDER AND MS. WATSON AND HER FRIEND WERE OBLIGED TO RENT A CAR AS WELL AS HIRE A DRIVER AND AN INTERPRETER ONLY TO ARRIVE AT THE BORDER AND LEARN THAT THE CUSTOMS OFFICE HAD CLOSED FOR THE WEEK-END. AFTER CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE, ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION, MS. WATSON

RECOVERED HER BAGGAGE AND RETURNED TO MADRID ON THE MORNING OF MAY 28.

3. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT FULLY REALIZES THE EMBASSY'S LIMITATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH ITS COMMENTS TO BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR A RESPONSE TO THE SENATOR. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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